

# Lesson Guide 17 – The Life of Jesus (Healing at Pool of Bethesda)

## John 5:1-15

**Pre-class Activity** – Starter Worksheet (Brainercise Answer: **Keyboard**, Who Am I: **Isaac**)

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### Prayer Requests

Praise  
Thanksgiving  
Concern  
Grow up to be like Jesus

- Jesus goes to Jerusalem for the feast of the Jews  
This is probably the second Passover attended by Jesus in Jerusalem. Jesus visits a pool of water called Bethesda which was located near the Sheep Gate.
- There is a man lying near the pool who has been an invalid for 38 years.  
There were many who thought the waters had healing powers. His infirmity was probably paralysis.
- Jesus asks the man if he wants to get well. The man responds that he has no one to help him into the pool.

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- Some manuscripts add, “From time to time an angel of the Lord would come down and stir up the waters. The first one into the pool after each such disturbance would be cured of whatever disease he had.”
- Jesus heals the man and tells him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.”
- The religious authorities tell the man, “It is the Sabbath, the law forbids you to carry your mat.”  
The bearing of burdens on the Sabbath was forbidden, not only by Jewish tradition, but by the law.
- The man is asked who healed him, but he didn’t know that it was Jesus.
- Jesus sees the man again and says to him, “See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.”
- The man then informs the Jewish authorities that it was Jesus who healed him. The following verses in the chapter indicate that because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jews persecuted him.

### Discussion Questions

**Question 1:** The Jewish leaders objected to healing on the Sabbath. What would influence you in times when you don't feel like helping someone? Why?

**Question 2:** What reasons can you think of for why some people don't want to accept the help of Jesus?